

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. Claims 15, 16, 21 and 23-30 are presently pending in this application subsequent to entry of the above amendments. Claims 1-14, 17-20, 22, and 31-37 have been cancelled without prejudice to their prosecution in a subsequent application. All amendments merely incorporate the limitations of base claims into dependant claims that were objected to but allowable. None of the amendments or new claims change the scope of the claims in any manner, neither narrowing nor broadening, and thus none of the amendments or new claims add any new matter.

The Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 and/or 112, second paragraph

The Office Action rejected claims 1-14, 17-20, 22, and 31-37 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 and/or 112, second paragraph as assertedly non-patentable.

Since Applicants have chosen to cancel the rejected claims without prejudice in order to facilitate early allowance of the non-rejected claims, the rejections will not be set forth in detail here. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are traversable, for example because of differences between the prior art and the claimed subject matter and because there is no teaching or suggestion leading to the proposed combinations, but since the cancellations have obviated the rejections, such traversals will likewise not be discussed here. Although Applicants do not agree with the rejections, Applicants sincerely thank the Examiner for the thoroughness of the Examination.

The Non-Rejected Claims

The Office Action noted that claims 15, 16, 21 and 23-30 were allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability of the recited claims, and have amended the claims to independent form. As noted above, the amendments do not alter the scope of the claims in any manner.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit the application is in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 101 *et. seq.* Thus, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims, 15, 16, 21 and 23-30. Applicants have made a good faith effort to place this application in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner have any further questions about the application, for example the particular language in the claims, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at (425) 455-5575 to resolve the matter. If any need for any additional fee is found, for any reason, kindly consider this a petition therefore and charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account 07-1897.

DATED this 16th day of July, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,
GRAYBEAL JACKSON HALEY LLP

By 

Joshua King
Registration No. 35,570
Attorneys for Applicant
155-108th Avenue NE, Suite 350
Bellevue, WA 98004-5973
(425) 455-5575

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